

# **Executive Summary of 100 Agents of Change Report**

In Place of War (logo)  
The Award for Civic Arts Organisations

**HUGE THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS:**

University of Manchester  
UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council

And a special thanks to Professor James Thompson,  
Professor of Applied Theatre and Vice-President Social  
Responsibility - University of Manchester.

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## **Introduction**

### **100 Agents of Change**

In Place of War is a global organisation using creativity in places of conflict as a tool for positive change. We enable grassroots change-makers in music, theatre and across

the arts to transform cultures of violence and suffering into hope, opportunity and freedom.

100 Agents of Change is our first major UK based programme, for which we were a recipient of The Award for Civic Arts Organisations 2022. It saw artists from our international network connect with 100 young people on a local level in UK communities. It was all about sharing skills and knowledge of how to use what we have around us - creativity and our communities - to make meaningful change.

With a backdrop of Brexit, a global pandemic and an increasingly polarised world we understood that, as one participant put it, “It’s a really rough time to be a young person in the arts in the UK”. But we also know that there are beacons of hope – young people becoming agents of change, forming international solidarity and using creativity to educate against and fight injustice.

Quotes:

*“I have been fortunate enough to experience amazing people and methodologies and wanted to share that with others from marginalised communities within the UK.”*

*- CEO, In Place Of War*

*“It’s a very important resource for informed activism. Learning from and being inspired by others is key to the successful implementation of a cause and movement.”*

*- Change-maker*

*“Young people in our area often come with bad publicity. We would like to challenge this perception and empower the young people to be future community leaders.”*

*- Partner Organisation*

*“I’m hoping to gain more confidence in my ability to creatively make change which will positively impact people. I hope to learn some creative techniques to realise this change, and become inspired by all the different perspectives that are being shared throughout the residency.”*

*- Agent of Change*

# **Who was involved?**

## **International Change Makers**

Our change-maker network is made up of over 100 change-makers from 26 countries across Africa, South America, the Middle East and Europe. They are artists, activists and community leaders working to create lasting change in their local communities. This project worked with them to share their knowledge with UK communities.

## **UK Partner Organisations**

We partnered with 10 incredible community organisations from across the UK that young people already had relationships with. They brought specialist experience and skills and enabled us to reach young people who might not usually apply for this type of project. They also advised on how to make the programme as accessible as possible.

## **Young Agents of Change**

Young people, aged 16-30, were recruited across the 10 Partner Organisations. Through working with these partners we were able to engage young working class

people, people of colour, women, LGBTIQ+ people, disabled people, young parents, refugees and migrants, people from the travelling community and other marginalised groups.

## **Youth Advisory Board**

We recruited one young person from each Partner Organisation to form The Youth Advisory Board (YAB). They were key to embedding young people's insight, experience and ideas into the 100 Agents of Change programme. We centred their opinions and expertise to ensure the project was as accessible, engaging and relevant as possible.

## **What Happened?**

### **A MONTH-LONG ONLINE RESIDENCY**

We hosted a month-long residency programme, showcasing the skills and experiences of the change-maker network, crossing many different artforms and creative campaigns. The programme was co-designed with the YAB and Partner Organisations in

accordance with the interests participants had discussed in their applications. It took place on Zoom with workshops, talks, panels and wellbeing sessions themed by week:

WEEK 1: ART AS POWER

WEEK 2: CULTURAL PRODUCTION

WEEK 3: ACTIVISM AND ACTION

WEEK 4: ENTREPRENEURIALISM

## **SEED FUNDING**

After the residency, the Agents of Change had the opportunity to apply for £1,000 seed funding to develop their own community project, putting their learning from the residency into practice. 10 young people were awarded seed funding across a variety of amazing project ideas:

Example projects:

Hannah Tookey - Museum of School Exclusion: a creative project bridging art and activism to connect the stories of those affected by school exclusion with decision makers.

Milka Fisiha - Tree of Life storytelling workshops for structurally disadvantaged communities, specifically those of African descent living in the Diaspora.

## **MENTORING SESSIONS**

The successful seed funding applicants were also offered mentoring from the change-maker network. The level of applications was really high, so in addition, we offered mentoring to a further seven young people who had taken part in the residency.

## **Co-design, Accessibility and Wellbeing**

We centred on accessibility, wellbeing & care by co-designing the programme with the Partner Organisations and the Youth Advisory Board.

This is what the young people told us they needed/wanted to access the online space:

- The option to watch sessions back in our own time / rewatch. “This meeting is being recorded.”
- Having the option to have the screen off

- Device to join sessions - “We partnered with Screen Share to provide 6 young people with devices who would have struggled to join the residency otherwise.”  
- Keeley Mudd (IPOW)
- Regular breaks
- Visual scribe
- Having information in writing before and after sessions
- Using 18pt + font size for correspondence
- Captioned translation in Arabic, Farsi and Pashto
- BSL interpreters
- Live captions

## **Outputs**

100 x YOUNG PEOPLE  
34 x HOURS OF ZOOM!  
16 x WORKSHOPS  
37 x TOTAL SESSIONS  
52 x SPEAKERS & FACILITATORS  
61 x MENTORING SESSIONS  
10 x TALKS  
8 x WELLBEING SESSIONS  
10 x SEED FUNDED PROJECTS



## What was the Change?

- Increased Knowledge Of Creative Activism
- Development Of Networks
- Development Of Leadership Skills
- Inspired To Create Change

Some words used by the young people to describe the programme:

- Inspiring
- Supportive
- Borderless
- Empowering
- Informing
- Mind-opening
- Limitless
- Humbling
- Stimulating